TRIAL COURSE OR NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

SUBMITTED BY:

Department
Biology and Wildlife

Prepared by
Denise Kind

College/School
CNSM

Phone
474-6298

Email Contact
dmkind@alaska.edu

1. ACTION DESIRED
(CHECK ONE):

Trial Course

New Course X

2. COURSE IDENTIFICATION:

Dept
BIOL

Course # 679

No. of Credits 2

Justify upper/lower division status & number of credits:

This course meets for 2 hours each week and serves graduate students. Students are required to complete outside readings and assignments, including a project and paper. Active participation in class and regular preparation of materials to share is required.

3. PROPOSED COURSE TITLE:

Scientific Teaching

4. To be CROSS LISTED?
YES/NO

Yes

If yes, Dept:

CHEM/GEOS

Course # 679

(Requires approval of both departments and deans involved. Add lines at end of form for such signatures.)

5. To be STACKED?
YES/NO

NO

If yes, Dept.

N/A

Course # N/A

6. FREQUENCY OF OFFERING:

Spring, even-numbered years

Fall, Spring, Summer (Every, or Even-numbered Years, or Odd-numbered Years) – or As Demand Warrants

7. SEMESTER & YEAR OF FIRST OFFERING (if approved)

Spring 2012

8. COURSE FORMAT:

NOTE: Course hours may not be compressed into fewer than three days per credit. Any course compressed into fewer than six weeks must be approved by the college or school’s curriculum council. Furthermore, any core course compressed to less than six weeks must be approved by the core review committee.

COURSE FORMAT:
(check all that apply)

1 2 3 4 5 X 6 weeks to full semester

OTHER FORMAT (specify)

Mode of delivery (specify lecture, field trips, labs, etc)

Seminar, discussion, workshop

9. CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK:

Note: # of credits are based on contact hours. 800 minutes of lecture=1 credit. 2400 minutes of lab in a science course=1 credit. 1600 minutes in non-science lab=1 credit. 2400-4800 minutes of practicum=1 credit. 2400-8000 minutes of internship=1 credit. This must match with the syllabus. See http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd/credits.html for more information on number of credits.

LECTURE hours/week
2

LAB hours/week

PRACTICUM hours/week

OTHER HOURS (specify type)

N/A
10. COMPLETE CATALOG DESCRIPTION including dept., number, title and credits (50 words or less, if possible):

**BIOL 679**

Scientific Teaching
2 credits
Offered Spring
This course explores methods for teaching science at the university level. Emphasis is placed on methods of course design, instructional techniques, assessment and course management that have been shown by research to improve student learning. This course is intended for graduate students in the sciences who have an interest in improving their teaching skills. The course format will be a mixture of discussion, workshops and seminars. If the course is over-enrolled, priority will be given to teaching assistants who are assigned to teach large, introductory level (100 or 200 level) courses during the semester they are taking this course. 

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.
Cross-listed with GEOS 679 and CHEM 679. (2 + 0)

**GEOS 679**

Scientific Teaching
2 credits
Offered Spring
This course explores methods for teaching science at the university level. Emphasis is placed on methods of course design, instructional techniques, assessment and course management that have been shown by research to improve student learning. This course is intended for graduate students in the sciences who have an interest in improving their teaching skills. The course format will be a mixture of discussion, workshops and seminars. If the course is over-enrolled, priority will be given to teaching assistants who are assigned to teach large, introductory level (100 or 200 level) courses during the semester they are taking this course. 

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.
Cross-listed with BIOL 679 and CHEM 679. (2 + 0)

**CHEM 679**

Scientific Teaching
2 credits
Offered Spring
This course explores methods for teaching science at the university level. Emphasis is placed on methods of course design, instructional techniques, assessment and course management that have been shown by research to improve student learning. This course is intended for graduate students in the sciences who have an interest in improving their teaching skills. The course format will be a mixture of discussion, workshops and seminars. If the course is over-enrolled, priority will be given to teaching assistants who are assigned to teach large, introductory level (100 or 200 level) courses during the semester they are taking this course. 

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.
Cross-listed with GEOS 679 and BIOL 679. (2 + 0)

11. COURSE CLASSIFICATIONS: (undergraduate courses only. Use approved criteria found on Page 10 & 17 of the manual. If justification is needed, attach on separate sheet.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>H = Humanities</th>
<th>S = Social Sciences</th>
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</thead>
</table>
Will this course be used to fulfill a requirement for the baccalaureate core? 
YES | NO | X
IF YES, check which core requirements it could be used to fulfill:
O = Oral Intensive, Format 6  W = Writing Intensive, Format 7  N = Natural Science, Format 8

12. COURSE REPEATABILITY:

Is this course repeatable for credit? 
YES | NO | X

Justification: Indicate why the course can be repeated (for example, the course follows a different theme each time).
N/A

How many times may the course be repeated for credit? 
N/A TIMES

If the course can be repeated with variable credit, what is the maximum number of credit hours that may be earned for this course? 
N/A CREDITS

13. GRADING SYSTEM: Specify only one.

LETTER: X  PASS/FAIL: 
**14. PREREQUISITES**

Graduate student standing

These will be required before the student is allowed to enroll in the course.

**15. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS**

If the course is over-enrolled, preference will be given to students who are actively teaching or TAing at the same time they are taking the course.

**16. PROPOSED COURSE FEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has a memo been submitted through your dean to the Provost &amp; VCAS for fee approval?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes/No</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Course Fees</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
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</table>

**17. PREVIOUS HISTORY**

Has the course been offered as special topics or trial course previously?

Yes/No: Yes

If yes, give semester, year, course #, etc.:

BIOL/GEOS/CHEM/PHYS 693: Spring 2010 and Spring 2011. This course was co-taught by 6 instructors when it was first offered in Spring 2010. In Spring 2011 instructors Kind and Fowell revised the course based on the trial offering and received excellent reviews from students.

**18. ESTIMATED IMPACT**

What impact, if any, will this have on budget, facilities/space, faculty, etc.

This course will have minimal impact on budget and facilities. Instructors Kind and Fowell have included this as a regular part of their respective workloads. Few materials are required, and a room is required for only one evening per week, for 2 hours. Virtually any room that will accommodate group discussions for up to 20 students can be used.

**19. LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

Have you contacted the library collection development officer (kljensen@alaska.edu, 474-6695) with regard to the adequacy of library/media collections, equipment, and services available for the proposed course? If so, give date of contact and resolution. If not, explain why not.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The articles we are using are available through the library’s website. We are sure of this, based on the

**20. IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS**

What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?

Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)

Whereas the course is cross-listed with GEOS and CHEM, we do not foresee any negative impacts on any of the departments involved. Other similar graduate courses on pedagogy are not available, so we do not expect to draw students away from alternative courses.

**21. POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS**

Please specify positive and negative impacts on other courses, programs and departments resulting from the proposed action.

The course an elective designed to improve the quality of instruction in undergraduate science labs and better prepare graduate students to enter the workforce as teachers, instructors or university faculty.
JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED

The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize course change and new course applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed course.

Minimal formal training is available to graduate students regarding how to be effective instructors, even though they are responsible for a great deal of instruction in laboratory and discussion settings. This makes things unnecessarily difficult for them, and for their faculty supervisors. Providing graduate students with training in effective course design and methods of instruction improves the quality of undergraduate courses and strengthens the graduate students’ CV, making them stronger applicants for positions that have a teaching component. By offering this course, we are improving undergraduate instruction, teaching graduate students valuable skills and creating a pool of trained applicants for positions that include teaching.

APPROVALS: SEE ATTACHED SIGNATURES.

Signature, Chair, Program/Department of: Date

Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for: Date

Signature, Dean, College/School of: Date

Signature of Provost (if applicable) Date

Offerings above the level of approved programs must be approved in advance by the Provost.

ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE

Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee Date

ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES: (As needed for cross-listing and/or stacking)

Signature, Chair, Program/Department of: Date

Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for: Date
**APPROVALS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology + Wildlife</td>
<td>29 Sep 2011</td>
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<tr>
<th>Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>CASM</td>
<td>5 Oct 2011</td>
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<th>Signature, Dean, College/School of:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>GUS</td>
<td>5 Oct 2011</td>
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Signature of Provost (if applicable)
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**ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geology + Geophysics</td>
<td>9/28/11</td>
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<th>Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry + Biochemistry</td>
<td>29 Sep 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature, Dean, College/School of:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>
ATTACH COMPLETE SYLLABUS (as part of this application).
Note: The guidelines are online: http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd/syllabus.html
The department and campus wide curriculum committees will review the syllabus to ensure that each of the items listed below are included. If items are missing or unclear, the proposed course change will be denied.

SYLLABUS CHECKLIST FOR ALL UAF COURSES
During the first week of class, instructors will distribute a course syllabus. Although modifications may be made throughout the semester, this document will contain the following information (as applicable to the discipline):

1. Course information:
   Title, number, credits, prerequisites, location, meeting time
   (make sure that contact hours are in line with credits).

2. Instructor (and if applicable, Teaching Assistant) information:
   Name, office location, office hours, telephone, email address.

3. Course readings/materials:
   Course textbook title, author, edition/publisher.
   Supplementary readings (indicate whether required or recommended) and any supplies required.

4. Course description:
   Content of the course and how it fits into the broader curriculum;
   Expected proficiencies required to undertake the course, if applicable.
   Inclusion of catalog description is strongly recommended, and Description in syllabus must be consistent with catalog course description.

5. Course Goals (general), and (see #6)

6. Student Learning Outcomes (more specific)

7. Instructional methods:
   Describe the teaching techniques (eg: lecture, case study, small group discussion, private instruction, studio instruction, values clarification, games, journal writing, use of Blackboard, audio/video conferencing, etc.).

8. Course calendar:
   A schedule of class topics and assignments must be included. Be specific so that it is clear that the instructor has thought this through and will not be making it up on the fly (e.g. it is not adequate to say "lab". Instead, give each lab a title that describes its content). You may call the outline Tentative or Work in Progress to allow for modifications during the semester.

9. Course policies:
   Specify course rules, including your policies on attendance, tardiness, class participation, make-up exams, and plagiarism/academic integrity.

10. Evaluation:
    Specify how students will be evaluated, what factors will be included, their relative value, and how they will be tabulated into grades (on a curve, absolute scores, etc.)

11. Support Services:
    Describe the student support services such as tutoring (local and/or regional) appropriate for the course.

12. Disabilities Services:
    The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials.
    State that you will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.”
This syllabus and schedule are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

Instructors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denise Kind</th>
<th>PhD, Biology and Wildlife</th>
<th>Sarah Fowell</th>
<th>PhD, Geology and Geophysics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:dmkind@alaska.edu">dmkind@alaska.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:sjfowell@alaska.edu">sjfowell@alaska.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office: 309 Bunnell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office: 326 REIC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office phone: 474-6298</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office phone: 474-7810</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours: By appointment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office hours: By appointment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Credits: 2
Meeting Time and Location: 308 Bunnell, Monday, 6:00-8:00 pm

Course Materials:
- See the syllabus for additional reading assignments and citations. Articles are available through the library’s on-line journals.
- You will be expected to prepare and share materials for courses that you teach, particularly any course that you are currently working with.

Course Description:
This course explores methods for teaching science at the university level. Emphasis is placed on methods of course design, instructional techniques, assessment and course management that have been shown by research to improve student learning. This course is intended for graduate students in the sciences who have an interest in improving their teaching skills. This course will become a component of an instructor training program that is currently under development. The course format will be a mixture of discussions, workshops and seminars. If the course is over-enrolled, priority will be given to teaching assistants who are assigned to teach large, introductory level (100 or 200 level) courses during the semester they are taking this course.

Course Purpose:
Our goal is to prepare you to design your own quality undergraduate science courses and strengthen your professional resume. Quality instruction of undergraduate courses is essential to the development of skilled, highly-knowledgeable undergraduates. Good instructional skills, although they take time and effort to acquire, ultimately make an instructor a better and more efficient teacher. This course aims to develop instructional skills of graduate students who are currently teaching undergraduate-level courses and/or labs, and prepare them for careers that may have a strong teaching component to them. This includes not only tenure-track professorial positions, but any positions which require the ability to explain and teach things to others.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:
1. Design a *teachable unit*. This is an integrated, 2-3 week block of topics, activities, laboratory exercises and assessments, constructed around clearly stated learning goals (things students should know or be able to do upon completion of the unit). Teachable units are the building blocks of a well-designed undergraduate or graduate science course!
2. Present a 10-minute activity that employs active learning strategies and frame it in the context of your teachable unit.

3. Construct and maintain a learner-centered classroom.

4. Draft a teaching philosophy that reflects understanding of current educational research and how students learn. Such philosophies are a standard part of a college or university faculty application. A philosophy that incorporates active learning strategies, student-centered outcomes and a variety of assessment tools is crucial for positions that involve aspects of teaching and curriculum design.

Course Goals
- to help students and instructors improve their ability to teach both course content and the analytical skills undergraduates need to carry out inquiry-based science
- to familiarize students with the best teaching practices, as established by research
- to provide students with the skills and support to implement active learning in their classrooms
- to provide students with the opportunity to experiment with new instructional and assessment techniques and discuss how well they worked
- to encourage students to reflect on instructional techniques they use and how well suited they are to the students in a particular class
- to familiarize students with resources available to support these goals

Specific Student Learning Outcomes
- apply backwards design to develop a teachable unit
- use active and inquiry-based learning in the classroom and the lab
- employ a variety of different teaching techniques to reach a diverse group of students and explain to students why they should take advantage of multiple approaches to learning
- effectively design and use both formative and summative assessments
- integrate a variety of assessment formats into courses
- clearly communicate course and assessment expectations and standards to students
- develop a classroom management strategy to enhance student learning
- use various tools to assess your own efficacy as an instructor and make adjustments

Grading: Teachable units, presentations, participation, reading assessments and teaching philosophies will be graded according to the following scale: 100-90% = A, 89% = A-, 88% = B+, 87-80% = B, 79% = B-, 78% = C+, 77-70% = C, 69% = C-, 68% = D+, 67-60% = D, 59% = D-, <59% = F.

Course Policies:
Attendance: Active participation in each class is expected. Lecture participation points cannot be made up. Make-up of reading assessments is granted solely at the discretion of the instructors. Students are allowed 2 excused absences per semester with no impact on their final grade. Additional absences (three or more) will decrease the final grade by one step per absence (e.g. from a A- to a B+ or from a B+ to a B).

Academic Honesty: Students are required to follow UAF’s policies on academic honesty. These are readily available through UAF’s website (www.uaf.edu). Unfamiliarity with the policies is not considered an acceptable reason for violating them. In particular, plagiarism of any type will not be tolerated. Any instances of academic dishonesty will be acted on by the instructors, and will result in a grade of zero on that work. It may also result in the student receiving an F in the course and forwarding of the incident to the appropriate university personnel for further action.
Disabilities: Students with disabilities are welcome in this class. If you work with Disabilities Services, please inform the instructors at the beginning of the course so that the appropriate accommodations can be made for you.

Grading Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Portion of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>active participation in and preparation for weekly discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>performance on weekly reading assessments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>presentation to group of a learning activity prepared as part of</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>your teachable unit – focused on a particular objective of the unit, approximately 10 minutes in length *</td>
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<tr>
<td>preparation of a teachable unit that includes active learning</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>strategies, lab activities, and both formative and summative</td>
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<tr>
<td>assessments with an explanation of how each of these will further</td>
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<tr>
<td>the stated goals and objectives*</td>
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<tr>
<td>a written, formal statement of personal teaching philosophy*</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>

*If this item fails to score a B or higher on the rubrics used to assess performance, additional revision and resubmission may be required. Rubrics will be provided to students in advance of these assignments. The revised work will also be graded according to the rubric and the appropriate grade assigned.
## Schedule for Spring 2012, BIOL/CHEM/GEOS/PHYS 693P:
Special Topics in Scientific Teaching (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Due at start of class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>How People Learn; What Active Learning Is and Isn’t</td>
<td>• Armbruster et al. 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Knight &amp; Wood 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Bloom’s Taxonomy – How to help students develop analytical skills and think “like a scientist”; designing formative and summative assessments to develop and evaluate these skills; when and how to grade; rubrics</td>
<td>• Handelsman et al., Ch 1 &amp; 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Harris 2002</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Kruger and Dunning 1999</td>
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<td>• <strong>Bring an exam from an undergraduate course to examine</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Backward Design – using goals and objectives to drive course design; Goals and Objectives – writing useful ones; How to use concept inventories</td>
<td>• Stokes et al. 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• D’Avanzo 2008</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Libarkin &amp; Anderson 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Teaching in the Laboratory Setting – types of labs; Peer review of goals and objectives</td>
<td>• Casotti et al. 2008</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Apedoe et al. 2006</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• <strong>Bring a lab that you’ve done (not the supplies, but the written exercise)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Goals and objectives for a teachable unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Teachable Unit – What is a teachable unit and how can an instructor develop a really good one? Examples and rubric Debunking learning styles</td>
<td>• Handelsman et al., Ch 5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Gautier et al. 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pashler et al. 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Active Learning I – active learning as a formative assessment tool; audience response systems (clickers), think-pair-share, case studies, and how to use them Work on rubric for grading class presentations; Examples of submitted activities</td>
<td>• Handelsman et al., Ch. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Greer &amp; Heaney 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Karpicke &amp; Blunt 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Lesson plan for a teachable unit with revised goals and objectives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Active Learning II – other techniques to engage students: minute papers, strip sequences, concept maps and concept diagrams</td>
<td>• Englebrecht et al. 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• McConnell et al. 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Description of an activity for your teachable unit, with goals, objectives, and assessment method</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 12</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 19</td>
<td>Active Learning III – engagement continued: kinesthetic activities and modeling processes <em>Sample teaching philosophies and teaching</em></td>
<td>• Haak et al. 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Moravec et al. 2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Mar. 26 | Writing a Teaching Philosophy – what a teaching philosophy is and how to write a great one | O’Neal et al. 2007
• sample teaching philosophies
• Map organization of 2 writing samples
• Revised teachable unit + activity |
| Apr. 2 | Group Work I – Brainstorming, jigsaw exercises; jigsaw assignment (Need better group writing paper) | McConnell et al. 2005
• Shimazoe & Aldrich 2010
• Felder & Brent 2001
• Draft of teaching philosophy |
| Peer evaluation of teaching philosophies |
| Apr. 9 | Group Work II – Jigsaw wrap-up, peer instruction and collaborative thinking | Crouch & Mazur 2001
• Yuretich et al. 2001
• Your piece of the jigsaw
• Revised teaching philosophy |
| Apr. 16 | Inquiry-Based Learning – the difference between investigative labs, guided inquiry and open inquiry learning | Justice et al., 2007
• Final teachable unit |
| Apr. 23 | Student Presentations of Teachable Unit, Outcomes, and One Complete Activity | teachable unit presentation
• Final teaching philosophy |
| Apr. 30 | Student Presentations (continued) | teachable unit presentation |

**Full citations for articles:**


Additional readings (not required, strictly for your own interest):


